

Upper Western Shore Tributary Team

February 2005

About the Watershed:

The Upper Western Shore Watershed encompasses 920 square miles and includes all of Harford County and parts of Cecil, Baltimore, and Carroll Counties. The watershed includes the Susquehanna River, which provides 50% of the Chesapeake Bay's freshwater input; the Loch Raven and Prettyboy Reservoirs, which are drinking water resources for the Baltimore metropolitan area; and the Bush, Bird, Middle, and Gunpowder Rivers. The watershed contains a mix of urban, suburban, and agricultural land uses. As a result, the team seeks to strike a balance between preserving sensitive ecological areas while maintaining a viable agricultural community and reducing the impacts of growth.

About the Team:

The mission of the Upper Western Shore Tributary Team is to reduce nutrient and sediment inputs and to restore habitat in the Upper Western Shore Watershed through community participation. The team is composed of a diverse group of members, including watershed organizations, farmers, educators, scientists, and federal, state, and local governments, who bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the team. The team's goals include seeking legislative changes, implementing restoration projects, and fostering environmental stewardship.



Elected officials have become active participants in the Upper Western Shore Wade-In.



Recent Accomplishments:

- The Upper Western Shore Team's Wade-In has become the team's major public outreach and education event. It is held every year on the first Saturday in June at the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center. The wade-ins include live music, canoeing, fish seining, and exhibits. State and local elected officials help lead the wade-in and measure the local water quality.
- In 2004, Harford County was awarded a grant by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to prepare a Deer Creek Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS). Baltimore County was also awarded a WRAS for Pretty Boy Reservoir. The WRAS is a partnership between the county and the state to assess the watershed, identify problem areas, and to develop a restoration strategy. Several team members are participating in the strategy development and the team plans to assist with the strategy's implementation once it is finalized.
- In 2004, the team created the Agriculture, Urban Nutrient, Stormwater and Resource Conservation workgroups to improve recommendations concerning specific nutrient management issues to the Chesapeake Bay Cabinet.



In September 2002, more than 50 people attended the team's non-point source pollution reduction bus tour in Baltimore County.

- The team co-sponsored several grants for local watershed groups and other associations. These grants provided funding for projects, such as SAV grow out kits and planting activities.
- The team is currently organizing several projects for 2005. Two of these projects will be an Agriculture BMP Tour and a Lawn Fertilizer Seminar for promoting proper residential usage.

For More Information:

For more information, contact Carrie Decker, team coordinator, at 410-260-8723. You can also visit our website at www.dnr.state.md.us/bay/tribstrat/.



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Team Members

Skip Pieper, Chair, Farmer
 Bill Kilby, Vice-Chair, Citizen/Farmer
 Jim Bailey, Aberdeen Proving Ground
 Cliff Bienko, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Christine Buckley, Harford Dept. of Public Works
 Charlie Conklin, Gunpowder Valley Conservancy
 Gary Davis, Harford Soil Conservation District
 Ann Devine, Susquehanna River Basin Commission
 Jason Ebrite, Citizen
 Greg Kappler, Baltimore Gas & Electric Company
 Stan Kollar, Harford Community College
 Lee McDaniel, Indian Springs Farm
 Edward Morgereth, Biohabitats, Inc.
 Donald Outen, Baltimore County Dept. of Environmental Protection & Restoration Management
 David Scheurer, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
 Bill Stack, Baltimore City Dept. of Public Works
 Steve Smith, Citizen
 Keith Williams, US Army
 Glenn Dudderar, Harford Land Trust and Forest Greens
 Brian Feeney, Towson University
 David Greene, Consultant

Team Participants

Lee Crush, Friends of Harford County
 Charles Day, Forest Conservancy
 Michele Dobson, Harford Dept. of Public Works
 Gary Peacock, York Conservation District
 Marie Phelps, Citizen
 Russ Phelps, Citizen

Team Coordinator

Carrie Decker, MD Dept. of Natural Resources